CONFIDENTIAL

File 20/R

881

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation
TELEPHONE

DATE: August 3, 1954
11:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: Guatemalan Situation

PARTICIPANTS: American Ambassador John E. Peurifoy - Guatemala City, Guatemala
Assistant Secretary Henry F. Holland

COPIES TO:
U - General Smith
ARA - Mr. Woodward
MID - Mr. Burrows
MID - Mr. Leddy, Mr. Fisher
CIA - Mr. Frank G. Wisner

This [illegible]

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Mr. Holland telephoned Amb. Peurifoy who said that things were quiet there this morning. There is no fighting. The Liberation Army was moved out of town last night. The men went to Zacapa without their arms.

Amb. Peurifoy said he has not seen any of the top people this morning. Castillo Armas stayed in town—did not leave last night.

Amb. Peurifoy asked Mr. Holland if he had seen his telegram no. 148 sent at 11:20 last night. The telegram had not yet reached us. Amb. Peurifoy said he had asked Castillo Armas not to leave until they could discuss this thing further and work something out. Mr. Holland said that that was better because his telegram no. 145 was disquieting.

Mr. Holland asked if it could be stated why the Liberation Army has been moved to Zacapa. Amb. Peurifoy said yes; that as a matter of fact they were originally scheduled to leave today to go down there anyway to be disbanded and go about their normal business until this fracas came up.

Amb. Peurifoy said he thinks there is more to this than just the incident of the two cadets. They don't quite know what it is yet and are trying to put the pieces together. He said that no. 148 will encourage Mr. Holland. Mr. Holland asked if no. 148 reflected the situation as Amb. Peurifoy now sees it. Amb. Peurifoy said no, that it reported on his conversation last night with Castillo Armas. He said the job of trying to fit the pieces together has not been concluded. He said he would send an analytical telegram as soon as he has a final interpretation of the situation. Mr. Holland asked if he or the gov[illegible] help from this end and Amb. Peurifoy said no. He would let us know if they did.

ARA:MKarydakis

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